



Procurement Times

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ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

2781 Task Orders
\$3.99 B Funded Sales
\$8.07 B Estimated Value

MILLENNIA CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

106 Task Orders
\$4.43 B Funded Sales
\$8.63 B Estimated Value

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Enterprise GWAC Center Develops Quality Assurance Plan (QAP)

Monti Jagers

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently granted an extension of GSA's designation to serve as an executive agent for GSA government-wide information technology (IT) acquisition programs. One of the provisions of the GSA executive agent designation is a requirement to develop a quality assurance plan (QAP) that describes how GSA's management infrastructure facilitates cost-effective and responsible contracting under the GWACs.

As an OMB designated executive agent for Government-wide IT contracts, GSA plays an important oversight role in reviewing the scope and proper use of task orders and in educating the Government workforce in the proper use of these contracts. GSA has provided extensive customer training, scope review of task orders over \$100,000, partnering with contractors and government agencies to ensure contracts are consistent with FAR and other regulations, encouraging the use of agency-specific policies and terms and conditions, annual recertification of small businesses, and others.

Customers have two options with GWACs: assisted services through GSA's FTS Customer Service Centers (Internal customers) and direct order direct bill where the agency requests a delegation of authority and issues and manages the task order (External customers). Various review levels occur depending on the contracting activity placing the order. The GWAC Center conducts task order scope reviews that supplement reviews conducted by internal and external customers as well as reviews mandated by the terms and conditions of each specific GWAC. The GWAC Center ensures the proper utilization of the contracts by providing guidance in scope determinations and reviewing task order pre- and post-award documents when applicable. The GWAC Center retrieves data on all orders placed against GWACs from the GSA Preferred System, Information Technology Solutions Shop (ITSS), FEDSIM, E-Buy and direct order direct bill clients. Every task order over \$100,000 issued against the GWAC is reviewed, in accordance with the OMB executive agent designation letter. Individual problems identified in the review are addressed by the GWAC Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO) and the task order Contracting Officer (CO).

The FTS Client Support Centers (CSCs) and FEDSIM provide assisted ordering services for federal agency clients. Acquisitions conducted by FTS CSC's are subject to Acquisition Panel Reviews, legal reviews, and management reviews. All acquisitions conducted by FEDSIM are subject to peer review and group manager review. Legal review and Contract Review Panel review depend on the dollar value and scope of the project. GSA's goal is to provide client agencies with best value solutions in a timely manner that meets their needs and complies with both law and regulation, and ensures funding policies in accordance with the April 27, 2005, Memorandum for all GSA Contract Activities, for purchases on Behalf of Other Agencies.

Agency clients must follow the Delegation of Authority process prior to issuing task orders against a GWAC. The Delegation of Authority Memorandum delegates the Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO) responsibilities effective upon signature, pursuant to FAR 42.302 and GSAR 542.302. The GWAC Center has procedures in place that external customers seeking to use a GWAC must follow. These procedures require the customer to validate their warrant status by providing a copy of contracting official's warrant, demonstrate awareness of agency funding policy, and demonstrate knowledge of the ordering process by completing the GWAC training overview. Customers seeking a delegation of authority to use a specific GWAC must receive contract specific training from the GWAC Center. Due to the increase in direct-order, direct-bill business, external clients require extensive support and training by the GWAC PCO.

Amendment to FY 2006 Defense Authorization Bill Limits Charges Under T&M Contracts Monti Jagers

An amendment to establish limitations on charges under DoD time-and-materials and labor-hour contracts was added to the fiscal year 2006 Defense Authorization Bill (S. 1042). The proposed amendment would prohibit prime contractors from charging the government more than the rate their subcontractors charge them. Industry opposes the amendment, claiming that adoption of the amendment would act as a disincentive for prime contractors to hire subcontractors, many of which are small businesses.

The Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 (SARA) expanded the available contract types used by Federal agencies in acquiring commercial items to include standard commercial-type contract vehicles, such as time and material (T&M) or labor-hour contracts. FAR Part 12.207, Contract Type was amended to authorize the use of time-and-materials or labor-hour contracts for the acquisition of commercial services that are commonly sold to the general public through such contracts and are procured on a competitive basis (previously, FAR 12.207 authorized only firm-fixed-price and fixed-price with economic price adjustment contracts for commercial services). Time-and-materials or labor-hour contracts are authorized for use only if the contracting officer determines that no other contract type is suitable, includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk, and authorizes any subsequent change in the ceiling price only upon determining that such a change is in the best interest of the agency. A performance-based contract or task order that contains firm fixed prices for the specific tasks to be performed remains the preferred option for the acquisition of either commercial or non-commercial items.

GSA GWAC Contract Vehicles Added to e-Buy Monti Jagers

Client agencies may now utilize e-Buy to post requests for proposals to GWAC contractors. However, GWACs have competition requirements that differ from Schedules and a delegation of authority is required prior to their use. Before submitting an RFQ or RFP, Federal clients are required to acknowledge that a delegation of authority has been obtained from GSA and training has been completed (OMB requirement). Contact information for the appropriate GSA office is provided on the e-Buy website.

An electronic notification received by the GWAC Center allows the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO) to review for scope determination, compliance with contract terms and conditions, and fair opportunity. The contracting officer must provide each awardee a fair opportunity to be considered for each order exceeding \$2,500 as required by FAR Subpart 16.5. E-Buy is an excellent tool to request the capabilities of GWAC contractors. Each GWAC has a pre-qualified pool of contractors. The GWAC Center must ensure that all GWAC contractors are loaded into the E-Buy system and that the awardees are provided a fair opportunity to be considered for each order.

Enterprise GWAC Center Welcomes New Associate Anjanette Magante

On July 25th, the EGC welcomed Rebecca Eden. She arrived from Heidelberg, Germany, where she worked for two years as a Procurement Analyst for the Army Contracting Agency Europe. Rebecca has over 20 years of contracting experience including assignments with the Air Force, Army, OSD-TRICARE and Resolution Trust Corporation. She has her MBA, CPCM, and is DAWIA Level III certified in contracting. Rebecca enjoys traveling, swimming, biking, tennis, red wine, and the sunny skies of California.

Rebecca will be assisting on all of the Center's major contracts.



August/September Events

Date: August 2-4, 2005

Location: Norfolk VA, FEDSIM, and Arlington VA

Event: GWAC Training

Date: August 15-19, 2005

Location: Honolulu, HI

Event: Solutions Edu "Practical Writing Course for PBSOW for GWACs"

Date: September 1-2, 2005

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Event: Opening Doors: Small Business Networking Event

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